**From:** Larry Englisher
**To:** City Council
**Subject:** Please do not vote for the MAHP Resolution on HP
**Date:** Friday, April 13, 2018 11:28:45 AM

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Dear Councilors:

I am writing to urge you to dismiss the proposed resolution by MassAgainstHP. Frankly I am astonished that you are even considering the resolution at all. It is unworthy of a city like Cambridge to entertain a resolution that unfairly singles out Israel for special censure. Particularly since Israel is the one liberal democracy in the Middle East, a country where people of different faiths, ethnic backgrounds, races and sexual orientations live in freedom while the Middle East region is embroiled in extreme intolerance of minority groups (Jews, Chrisitians, Bahai's, women, LGBT people, Kurds, Yazidis and Muslim minorities, etc.) and most live in tyranny. Israel is a close American ally and its civilians have been the target of terrorism virtually continuously since its establishment. It deserves to right to defend its citizens. Israel's many offers of peace have been rejected in favor of continued armed confrontation by Palestinians. The BDS movement which this resolution is a part of is a campaign aimed at the destruction of Israel; it has been rejected by all the governors of US states and national leaders like Barack Obama and Bernie Sanders. The information on the MAHP website about Israel and HP is distorted and inflammatory and aimed at influencing those who are not fully aware of the history.

I am especially concerned about the secretive way in which the resolution was introduced and the lack of a thorough and fair process for information gathering. The resolution will do nothing to promote peace but will certainly alienate many people in our region.

Finally I have also been surprised to learn that Cambridge enjoys a sister city relationship with a Chinese city that is notorious for its human rights/labor abuses in the toy industry. Perhaps Cambridge City Council would do better to focus on local issues unless it obtains more comprehensive and balanced expertise in foreign affairs.

Larry Englisher
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MIT alumnus

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